



**For Immediate Release**

January 10, 2005

Contact: Joanne Fine, Chief Communications Officer  
Office: 247-3671 or Cellular: 350-2531

***Bernalillo County Delivers***

***Employee Donations to United Way Skyrocket***

*Central New Mexico* – Bernalillo County employees increased their donations to United Way of Central New Mexico by 130% in the 2004 fund drive. The number of county workers donating increased 244%. Why the dramatic increase in giving? "Bernalillo County Commissioners provided support and guidance, Thaddeus Lucero, County Manager, provided inspiring leadership and the opportunity for all county employees to learn more about United Way, and the employees themselves responded", said Michele Cody, Loaned Executive to Bernalillo County from United Way.

"I am exceptionally proud of the employees of Bernalillo County," says Thaddeus Lucero, County Manager. "They fully recognize the importance of United Way's contributions to our community. I would like to thank the members of the County Commission, who have lent their full support to this effort." County employees Priscilla Gutierrez and Danny Duran were named coordinators of the County campaign effort by Lucero. In less than three weeks Bernalillo County employees had donated \$50,000 to United Way.

Gutierrez said, "I was amazed by the work UWCNM does in our community. The number of lives it touches...lives from every demographic, economic and educational group." Danny Duran said, "I believe in the power of community. As county employees, we play an important role in keeping Bernalillo County healthy. Through UWCNM, we can do our part to make sure we provide the educational, health and human services opportunities necessary to keep our citizens vigorous and our families strong."

Jack Holmes, President & CEO of United Way of Central New Mexico said, "Bernalillo County is a shining example of what can happen when people choose to give and leaders choose to lead. We are very grateful to Bernalillo County and to all the employees who stepped up to help the most vulnerable in our community. -30-

*On Tuesday, Jan 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM at the Vincent E. Griego Chambers, 1 Civic Plaza, Jack Holmes will formally thank the Bernalillo County Commissioners and County employees for their support.*